(4) Gross and mass emission stan. dards for petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989.

(5) Public awareness campaigns have been launched.

(6) A policy statement for abate ment of pollution has been formu lated.

(7) The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has set up a comprehensive action plan to reduce pollution and control smoke emissions from its buses.

(8) Delhi Administration through its Transport Department has been implementing a plan scheme 'Control of Air Pollution' from the exhaust of motor vehicles. Pollution checking facilities have been provided at various petrol pump locations and private work shops.

(9) Prosecutions have been laun_ ched against the vehicles not meeting the prescribed norms.

(10) The Government has stated a programme of running battery powered buses so as to minimise vehicular pollution in congested areas.

**Population of lions**

4089. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHAN-DARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of lions in 1980 and 1990;

(b) the sanctuary-wise and state-wise lion population as at the end of 1992; and

(c) the steps taken and being ta. kem to protect and preserve the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The census of lions is carried out periodically. As per census carried out in 1978 and 1990 the population of Lions in forests was 205 and 284 respectively. In India the lions are found only in Gir Forests of Gujarat.

(c) The steps taken to protect and preserve the endangered species are as under;

(i) The Government of India has totally banned the trade in, products of Scheduled animals in India by law with the 1991 Amendment of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1982. 1972.

(ii) The Government of India has been providing financial assistance to the Gir National Park and Gir Wildlife Sanctuary for protection and conservation of Gir Lions alongwith the habitat. The am. ount released during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 is as under.—

| Year | Gir National Park | Gir Wild life Sanc-tury |
|---|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 0.05 lakhs | 2.93 lakhs |
| 1991-92 | 0.10 lakhs | 7.13 lakhs |
| 1992-93; | — | 0.05 lakhs |

(iii) India has become a member of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fautna and flora (CITES) in order to exercise control over the international trade on specified wildlife articles with full cooperation of other members of CITES.

(iv) 4 Regional and 3 sub-regional offices have been established by Govenrment of India in major trade|export outlets in India to check illegel traffic in wild animal products.

(v) States have been advised to coordinate and liase with the Di rectorate of Revenue Intelligence Armed Forces. Customs and Coast Guards authorities for better enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(vi) Through the State Governments action is being taken to strengthen anti.poachimg measures by providing arms and ammunition to forest guards, improving their communication capabilities, conducting raids on the basis of information about illegal trade in wildlife produce etc.

(vii) A programme for mitigation of the man-animal conflict has been taken up under the Centrally, Sponsored Scheme, "Eco-develop-m-ant of areas in and around National Park and Sanctuaries". During 1991-92—Rs. 5.75 lakhs have been provided as Central assistance under this scheme.

**Destruction rinsed by water hyacinth Plant**

4090. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI-Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the water Hyacinth Popularly known at Jalkumbhi is fast destroying many lakes in the State of Madhya Pradesh particularly in Bhopal city;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken or proposed to take to get rid of Jalkumbhi from the lakes of Madhya Pradesh particularly in Bhopal?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Water hyacinth is found in several lakes of the country. including those in Madhya Pradesh and in Bhopal city.

(c) Under the Wetlands Programme, financial assistance of Rs. 21.89 lakhs has been provided to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for control of noxious aquatic weeds including water hyacinth in Bhoj wetland of Bhopal District.

**Meeting of Montreal protocol si. gna-tories**

4091. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India was reluctant to chair the meeting of Montreal Protocol Signatories held in Copenhagen on 23rd Novembers 1992; and

(b) if so what were the reasons theerfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Depletion of the Forests cover of Western Ghats**

4092. DR, BAPU KALDATE;

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year five per cent of forests of Western Ghats are destroyed or thinned into grasslands;

(b) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aw are that further expansion of grass-